

for the master, separate play-grounds for both schools, &c. The schools will be divided by a curtain, for the purpose of holding examinations, &c. The length of the boys' school will be 35 feet 6 inches, by 17 feet wide; that of the girls 27 feet, by 17 feet wide.

**Wolverhampton.**—The new church of St. James at Wednesfield Heath, which was to be consecrated on Thursday in last week, is in the flowing decorated style, and the edifice consists of nave and aisles, with north porch and south entrance under tower; chancel, with organ chamber on north side, separated by a stone screen, and a vestry. The nave is 85 feet long and 26 feet wide, and is divided into six bays. The aisles are 14 feet 6 inches wide, thus making the total width 55 feet. The chancel is 36 feet long and 19 feet wide. The tower, which is placed at the south-west corner of the nave, is terminated by a broach spire, altogether 140 feet high. The roofs are open timbered and of a high pitch, with arched principals. The whole of the interior as well as of the exterior is dressed stone. The seats are all open, and, together with the doors and other joiners' work, are of oak. The chancel floor is laid with Minton's encaustic tiles. The Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Decalogue, are painted on tablets (with gold grounds) placed under the east window of the chancel. The pulpit and font are of Caen stone, and the belfry is provided with one large bell. The mode of lighting is by six large brass coronas, suspended by brass rods from the apex in the roof. The principal entrance is under the tower, through recessed arches, springing from columns with fluted capitals. The windows, particularly the windows at the east and west ends, are large, and though a general resemblance is retained, no two windows in the lower portion of the church are alike: every corbel also differs from its fellows. The nave is separated from the aisles by clustered columns, supporting six pointed arches on each side. The exterior is ornamented. The architect is Mr. Banks; builders, Messrs. G. and F. Higham, of Wolverhampton. A large walled burial ground surrounds the church.—The tenders of Messrs. G. and F. Higham for the restoration of the Collegiate Church have been accepted by the executive committee. There were four other competitors.

**Birmingham.**—A monumental window has just been placed in the church of the New Cemetery, by Mr. J. P. Hebbert, of New-street, in remembrance of his brother, the late Lieut. Hebbert, of the Bengal Engineers. The centre panels of the lower openings contain the figures of St. Michael and St. George, and in the smaller ones are emblems of the four Evangelists, each opening being surrounded with initial borders. An oak pattern forms the background of the window. The openings in the tracery are filled with armorial bearings. The window is on the south side of the church. It is from the establishment of Mr. Holland, of Warwick.—The opening of the General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter-road, Edgbaston, took place on Thursday week. The building, which has just been completed, under the superintendence of Mr. Hemming, architect, forms a conspicuous object, being at the junction of Church and Carpenter-roads, Edgbaston: it is in the Elizabethan style, and constructed of brick, with stone quoins and dressings, and has been erected by Messrs. Branson and Gwyther. It consists of centre and wings, the former 88 feet, and the latter 22 feet in length: a music-room, partly detached from one of the wings, stands at the north-west angle, and is intended to accommodate 300 persons. It contains an organ by Bishop, of London. The windows are glazed with painted and etched glass manufactured by Messrs. Chance. The centre, on the ground-floor, consists of entrance-hall, 20 feet by 14; sale-shop, 26 feet by 18; secretary's offices, master and mistress's rooms, matron's room, store-room, kitchen, and pantries. Immediately in the rear are the domestic culinary offices, the kitchen court, and the basket-shop, 60 feet by 18. The right-hand wing contains dining-room, 40 feet by 20; boys' school-room, 34 feet by 20; and staircase, 20 feet

by 9. The opposite wing—girls' basket-room, 24 feet by 32; girls' school-room, 34 feet by 20; and staircase, 20 feet by 9; and these wings are connected by an outward covered way, independently of the internal communication of the corridors. The first floor consists of the wings, and the front portion of the main centre, and is arranged as dormitories, sick-rooms, &c. At the rear of the institution are play-grounds, separated from each other by the basket-room building. The entire site of the institution and grounds occupies an area of two acres.

**Liverpool.**—Recently a large building has been erected in Warwick-street, Toxteth-park, and is now in course of completion, which is intended for washhouses and reading-rooms for the poor of the neighbourhood. The edifice runs from Upper Mann-street to Bedford-street, having an entrance at each end. The reading-rooms are not yet completed, but when finished will consist of ante-rooms and one large room. The rooms will be supplied with the leading newspapers and periodicals of the day.

**Baldernstone.**—According to the *Preston Guardian*, the foundation-stone of a new church, dedicated to St. Leonard, was erected here on Thursday in last week with free masonic and other ceremonial. The new building is to be erected nearly on the site of the old church. The architect is Mr. Rampling, of Preston; and the contractors are Messrs. Hargreaves, of Clitheroe, and Messrs. Waddington, of Padham. The church is designed in the style of the fourteenth century, consisting of nave, 57 feet by 36 feet; chancel, 18 feet by 12 feet; and a porch on the north side. It will contain sittings for 381 persons, and will cost about 1,000*l*. After the stone had been laid by Mr. Joseph Fielden, a blind farmer named Mr. Joseph Greaves, of Myrescough Smithy, Baldernstone, says the *Guardian*, "was led up to the stone, so that he might touch and examine it. This individual, we understand, has taken great interest in the new church, and has contributed 100*l*. towards its erection. He knocked the four corners of the stone with Mr. Fielden's mallet, and after each blow his niece placed by his orders a sovereign down, after which the elderly farmer said he did not see what the middle had done that it should not have a blow, so he struck it, and that, too, was honoured with a gold coin. He was then introduced to Mr. Fielden, and was delighted, as he said, 'that two Josephs should be together.'"

**Bolton.**—On Monday week, a frightful accident occurred at the Star Inn, Bolton, by the falling of the eastern wall of the concert room and museum, destroyed the week before by fire. Mr. Sharples had engaged Mr. Simcock, a master bricklayer, who erected the building, to take down the walls, with instructions to use every precaution necessary to prevent accident. The work had been going on under Mr. Simcock's superintendence. Several persons were among the ruins at the time, watching the progress of the workmen. Some were much injured, and others killed, a number of poor Irish people having their dwellings destroyed, and themselves buried in the ruins, whence those alive were shortly afterwards extricated. A verdict of accidental death on those who died was given by a coroner's jury.

**Sunderland.**—The baths and washhouses here appear to have at once become self-supporting on their opening, and to be now steadily yielding a surplus of 1*l*. a week, after paying interest at four per cent. on the cost, including site and alterations (about 3,000*l*. it appears). The building was commenced in the autumn of 1850, and finished so far as to make its opening practicable in April, 1851. The establishment comprises twelve baths, thirty-seven washing places, a drying closet, and an ironing and mangling room. The working expenses of the establishment, including cost of coals, gas, water, and every other charge, is under 4*l*. per week, together with about 2*l*. 6*s*. for interest of borrowed capital. The weekly receipts up to the close of 1851 were 6*l*. 19*s*. 9*d*. and the establishment was at once self-sustaining. The number of persons who have bathed during the past

six months have been 7,671, the number of washers 4,972, and the number of hours of washing have been 29,925, or an average of four hours for each person. The receipts from the bathing department have been 88*l*. 17*s*. 1*d*. or 3*l*. 6*s*. per week; and from the washing department 124*l*. 13*s*. 9*d*. or 4*l*. 15*s*. 11*d*. per week, making in all a weekly income of 8*l*. 1*s*. 11*d*.

#### ROUEN CATHEDRAL.

STAIRCASE IN THE NORTH TRANSEPT.

THE Cathedral at Rouen, although the most important church, is not the most beautiful: it must in this respect occupy a secondary position to its more brilliant neighbour, St. Ouen, which has also the additional advantage of being better cared for. It is usually the custom to pass by the cathedral with a very slight notice, but this is both unwise and unjust: it has very many interesting and peculiar features, which will well repay a more careful and attentive examination than is generally bestowed upon them.

At the invasion of the Normans in 841, the cathedral fared better than St. Ouen, being only pillaged, while the latter was destroyed. It seems to have remained until the year 1200, when it was destroyed by fire. The funds for its restoration are said to have been furnished by John King of England and Duke of Normandy; and if so, it is probably the only generous action that can be laid to his charge. The new building made but slow progress, and was not completed until the middle of the sixteenth century.

The interior length of the cathedral, from the western portal to the extremity of the Chapel of the Virgin, is about 450 feet; its breadth, including the aisles, about 105 feet; and the height of the nave and choir about 92 feet. The most striking portion of the exterior is the western façade: to describe this noble work is almost impossible, and to obtain a good view of it equally so, its face being obscured by a mass of paltry houses crowded around it: this front was completed about the middle of the sixteenth century: it was the work of Cardinal D'Amboise, and occupied twenty years in its erection. In the nave a peculiar effect is obtained by small clusters of detached shafts placed around the upper portion of each pier, forming a sort of gallery. One of the finest portions of the cathedral is the Chapel of the Virgin, and this derives additional interest from the fine tombs placed within its walls: the best are those of the Cardinals of Amboise and Louis de Brézé. The library was erected in the year 1424, and the ascent to it was by the staircase shown in our illustration. This is one of the most picturesque portions of the cathedral: the work was done by the order of Cardinal William D'Estouteville; the whole is executed in stone: the lower flight has a panelled balustrade: those above are pierced: the library was plundered and destroyed by the Calvinists in 1562, and the room is now used as a vestry for the choristers.

There is a large quantity of good painted glass in the cathedral, some of it as early as the thirteenth century. At the death of Richard I. of England, his heart was deposited in this church: it was discovered in 1838, deposited in a double box of lead, on the lid of which was an inscription leaving no doubt as to its identity; and at the same time an effigy of the king was discovered, measuring 6 feet 6 inches long, and hewn out of a single block of stone.

The cathedral suffered considerably from a fire which occurred on the 15th of Sept. 1822, which destroyed the central spire and nearly the whole roofing of the building: immediate steps were taken by the Government for its restoration, and the roofs were very rapidly repaired, but the spire still remains unfinished: it is of cast iron, with open tracery: the intended height is 436 feet, and the weight is stated to be 1,200,000 lbs.

The whole building stands much in need of a complete restoration, and it is said to be the intention of the Government to provide funds for the work.